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Notes and News

New Members

Alex Bell, Mia Morgan, Alana Kelly, R.S. Nicholson, Alix Muir.

Donations

Thank you to Janet Wilmshurst for her donation to the Association in the last quarter.

New Zealand Archaeology Week, April 2017

As announced in the September issue of AINZ the NZAA is planning a New Zealand Archaeology Week in the first week of April 2017. The response to the event has been positive, and a number of events are already proposed for Northland, Auckland, Thames-Coromandel, Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa, Wellington, Christchurch, Oamaru and Dunedin. The NZAA plans to have an initial schedule of events by mid to late January 2017 followed by a final schedule by late February 2017.

There is still room for more events. If you would like to discuss possible events or other proposals please contact Kathryn Hurren at archaeologyweek@nzarchaeology.org.

Recent Academic Publications

Booth, J. (2016) 'Ecological Consequences Of Pre-Contact Harvesting Of Bay Of Islands Fish And Shellfish, And Other Marine Taxa, Based On Midden Evidence.' *Journal of Pacific Archaeology*, Vol. 7 No. 2: 73-86.

Campbell, M. (2016) 'The Tawhiao Cottage and the Archaeology of Race and Identity.' *Journal of Pacific Archaeology*, Vol. 7 No. 2: 43-58.

Moore, P., Nelson, C. (2016) The Source, Composition and Typology of 'Limestone' Adzes from Eastern North Island, New Zealand.' *Journal of Pacific Archaeology*, Vol. 7 No. 2: 59-72.

Petchey, P., Brosnahan, S. (2016) 'Finding Meaning and Identity in New Zealand Buildings Archaeology: The Example of 'Parihaka' House, Dunedin.' *Journal of Pacific Archaeology*, Vol. 7 No. 2, 26-42.

The Department of Conservation has begun to publish online a series of heritage assessments on actively-managed sites. These assessments are reviewed internally in DOC, and to date three have been released:

Petchey, P. (2016) *The Grafton Wreck and Epigwaitt Hut Site, Auckland Islands, Heritage Assessment*. Department of Conservation, Wellington.
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/documents/science-and-technical/has1entire.pdf>

Sutton, M. (2016) *Buster Diggings Heritage Assessment*. Department of Conservation, Wellington.
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/science-and-technical/has3entire.pdf>

Watson, K. (2016) *Mt. Harper Ice Rink: Baseline Inspection And Historic Values Assessment*. Department of Conservation, Wellington.
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/science-and-technical/has2entire.pdf>

Recent Reports & Publications Indexes

AINZ no longer carries a list of recent consultancy reports, but this body of information remains a valuable source of primary data. Heritage New Zealand maintains the Digital Library of consultancy reports, which can be emailed (or sent via Hightail.com for large files) on request. More information and the excel spreadsheet of the library contents can be found at:

<http://www.heritage.org.nz/protecting-heritage/archaeology/digital-library>

The New Zealand Archaeological Association also maintains an archaeological report library. Scans of this collection have been included in the HNZ Digital Library, but any other enquiries can be directed to Nicola Molloy (nmolloy@doc.govt.nz).

Another valuable resource is the National Library's *Index New Zealand* (INNZ), which is a database that indexes articles from research, trade and general interest journals about the NZ and South Pacific region. Entries include a brief abstract. The INNZ database is at: <http://innz.natlib.govt.nz/>

Obituary

Sue Bulmer 1933 to 2016

Sue (Nee Hirsh) was born in Ithaca New York but raised in Pasadena California (the accent she never lost) where her father was engaged at Caltech. She took her undergraduate degree at her parents' alma mater, Cornell, where she was first exposed to anthropology. Teaching, research on the Samoan community in Hawaii and a first MA in sociology followed, while based in Hawaii. A course there with Kenneth Emory introduced her to Pacific archaeology. A Fulbright scholarship to research modern Samoan migration followed, based in Auckland. She encountered Pacific archaeology in the field in 1957 during her sojourn in Samoa, where Jack Golson and Wal Ambrose were carrying out pioneering work. She also visited the great stone mound of Pulemelei on Savai'i, which made a deep impression. Further contacts with archaeologists in Auckland brought a conversion to archaeology.



Sue Bulmer excavating at Wanlek in New Guinea in 1973.

Sue first visited New Guinea when newly married to Ralph in 1959-1960, carrying out pioneering excavations at two sites in the Highlands. Her second MA (1966) was in archaeology, from the University of Auckland, with a thesis about her New Guinea Highlands work. Ralph was familiar with archaeology and some of the early publications were joint ones. Between 1967 and 1974, when Ralph held an appointment at the University of Papua

New Guinea, Sue carried out surveys and excavations in coastal sites, where she added contributions on pottery to her previous work on stone tools. Her PhD is from the University of PNG with a thesis 'Prehistoric Culture Change in the Port Moresby Region' (1978). She often reminisced on her time there, knowing many of the key political leaders from the time of PNG independence. Jack Golson has published a tribute to Sue focusing on her New Guinea work. Jack's piece is gratefully acknowledged as a source of information reused here. See also Pawley (1991).

One New Guinea excavation uncovered bones of a new species of bat, initially thought extinct. The bat was named after her - Bulmer's Fruit Bat, *Aproteles bulmerae*, somewhat to the chagrin of her wildlife-loving husband. Sue Bulmer was the NZ Historic Places Trust's first Regional Archaeologist, based in Auckland, from 1978 to 1990. She was a NZAA Council member initially in 1960 then 1978-81 and 1995-2000, and was Vice-President in 1983. She was Auckland file keeper for the NZAA Site Recording Scheme, materially developing the coverage and depth of information recorded.

She was a strong advocate for heritage conservation. Preserved stone fields at Stonefields at Mt Wellington and Otuataua derive at least in part from her representation of the importance of these remnants of a once extensive cultural landscape. She had a close relationship with one of the cone pa, Maungawhau – Mt Eden, and with those who desired its future protection. That there are no longer cattle grazing on the mountain or tourist buses on the summit can be traced back to her advocacy. The former Auckland City Council acknowledged her in 2005 with a Living Legend award, presented by the Mayor. Passion is a word one can readily associate with Sue. If there was an issue you always knew on which side Sue stood, always the more radical or progressive side. This was not just intellectual discussion but activism as well. She joined the Bastion Point protests and once an NZAA Council meeting did not stand in the way of her excusing herself to join an anti-tour protest. That passion did not always make her an easy colleague, but disagreements rarely set permanently in these personal relationships, at least with those who recognised her love of a good argument. Sue was a loving mother, grandmother, a generous host and genuinely interested in her contemporaries and their offspring.

The archaeology unit she founded and ran in Auckland was a pioneer in systematic rescue archaeology for the region and, indeed, for the country. From the outset Maori history was a focus but Sue was determined that the provision of the Historic Places Act covering all pre-1900 archaeological sites should be recognised and a series of excavations on colonial remains on

redevelopment sites in the central city followed, demonstrating the potential of these sites. The unit contracted a number of recent graduates whom Sue both mentored and led, many later becoming independent consultants. The unit operated from a series of well-equipped bases and was notable for the public education that was built into the projects. Her staff remember her as a manager sensitive to their personal circumstances. The conflict of interest involved in the Historic Places Trust being both regulator and recipient of funds from developers who had been granted authorities, grated with some. The philosophy that the private sector should provide these services resulted in the unit eventually closing, from its later manifestation under the Department of Conservation. A long series of publications resulted from the work, not all grey literature. The most comprehensive was Sue's 'City without a state?' (Bulmer 1993). Sue's archaeology was always closely linked to excavation and was never content with description – the results were consistently exposed to systematisation and interpretation. A local example is her persistence in finding interpretations for the structures found in the gardens and related features in Auckland's volcanic fields.

Sue was an exponent of folk music, playing guitar, performing at parties and fieldwork campfires and contributed two of songs she had written to a locally made LP of such songs – *Sweat in the Sun Mate*. Indigenous rights mattered to Sue and she was active in this both in the international sphere and in her areas of research. Sue's commitment to heritage extended beyond archaeology contributing to the broader work of the Trust and supporting its Regional Committee, but most practically through buying and restoring a cottage in Helensville, which she used for some years as a holiday retreat.

Her last years were affected by memory loss, not easily accepted in one so intellectual and at times a strain for her family, but for a happier side of this time look at daughter Alice Bulmer's blog where she talks about singing as a means of communication: www.alicebulmer.com/songs-to-remember/. Alice has published a bibliography of Sue's work, and a separate personal reflection on her life and of her parents' marriage: www.alicebulmer.com/farewell-sue/. It elucidates the pressures that kept her from a university career at which she could have excelled. Sue's second marriage was to a former childhood friend Terry O'Meara, who moved to Auckland, but who pre-deceased her.

Garry Law – with assistance from Janet Davidson, John Coster and Dave Veart.

References

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- Bulmer, S. (1993) City without a state? Urbanisation in pre-European Taamaki-makau-rau (Auckland, New Zealand). in *The Development of Urbanism from a Global Perspective*. University of Uppsala, Uppsala. On-line at http://www.arkeologi.uu.se/digitalAssets/36/36108_3bulmerall2.pdf
- Golson, J. (2016) Susan Bulmer, an archaeological pioneer. *Archaeology in Oceania*. Vol. 00 (2016): 1–8. DOI: 10.1002/arco.5117
- Pawley, A. Notes on a Large Small Game Hunter. in A. Pawley (Ed.) (1991) *Man and a Half – Essays in Honour of Ralph Bulmer*. Polynesian Society, Auckland.